

REMARKS

Per the Examiner's suggestion in the office communication dated December 15, 2003, Applicant has amended claims 9-20 in order to follow the format that includes a change to an existing claim.

Upon entry of this Request for Continued Examination, claims 1-22 are pending. Claim 13 has been amended to address the typographical omission. New claim 22 has been added as a linking claim between the apparatus of claims 1-8 and 16-20 and method claims 9-15 and 21. Reconsideration of claims 1-22 is respectfully requested.

In previous Office Actions, the Examiner has refused entry of claims 9-20 on the grounds that Applicants had constructively elected claims 1-8 by original presentation.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 9-12 defines the same invention, only in slightly different terms. Claims 9-12 do not constitute a different embodiment of the invention. Thus, entry and consideration of claims 9-12 is submitted to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

Entry and consideration of method claims 9-15 and 21-22 is also requested. New claim 22 has been added as a linking claim linking the apparatus claims 1-8 and 16-20 with the method claims 9-15 and 21. Consideration and entry of the method claims linked by a linking claim to apparatus claims is required by U.S. patent practice.

Thus, entry and consideration of claims 9-20 and new claims 21 and 22 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the art rejections over Graf and Reynolds as previously expressed in prior Office Actions, Applicants submit a new §132 Declaration traversing the obviousness rejection based on combination of Reynolds with Graf. The Declaration sets forth facts which clearly illustrate the lack of motivation and the incompatibility of the combination of the teachings of Graf and Reynolds as posed by

the Examiner. The Declaration also avers facts which support a conclusion that Graf must employ insert molding to mount the blade integrally in the holder due to the construction of the blade. From this, one can reach only one conclusion, namely, that there is no open ended groove preformed in the holder of Graf which subsequently receives the blade.

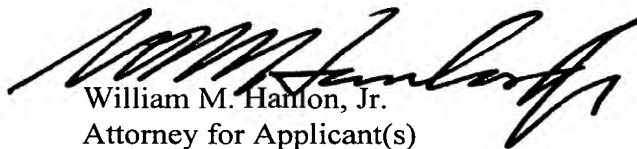
In Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 9, 16 and 22, the blade is mounted in the open ended groove in the holder after the holder and shell have been integrally formed.

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants §132 Declaration avers facts which rebut the obviousness rejection previously made by the Examiner based on a combination of Graf and Reynolds. As such, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1-22 patentably defines over the cited references and is not rendered obvious thereby.

Accordingly, claims 1-22 are submitted to be in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

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